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Perspectives from the Field-taking a look at library issues from other perspectives

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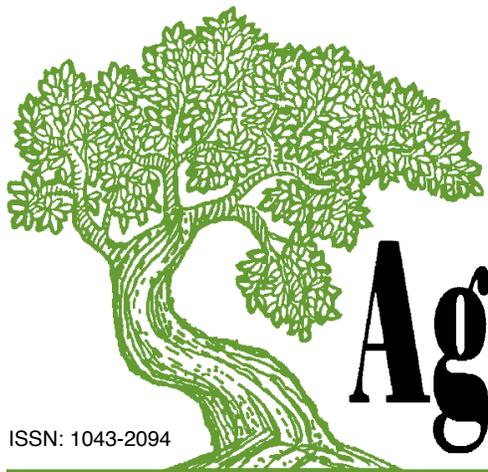
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Against the Grain

“Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians”

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Perspectives from the Field

by **Katina Strauch** (Editor, *Against the Grain*) <kstrauch@comcast.net>

I have to confess that I am filling in here as guest editor. **Timothy Cherubini** from **LYRASIS** was slated as our guest editor for this issue but family matters interfered with his schedule. I guess that’s not too bad given that in 24 years I have never had to fill in for any guest editor! My condolences to **Tim** and hoping for his father’s speedy recovery. So — y’all have to settle for me instead!

In this issue we look at several recent initiatives — the **Chicago Collaborative**, **Discoverability**, **Offsite Book Depositories** and **Institutional Repositories**. **Gail Yokote**, **J. Mitchell Homan** and **Jean Shipman** give us a glimpse of the beginnings of the **Chicago**

Collaborative and how the **AAHSL**, **SSP**, **CBE**, and others began in 2008 to form a task force and have meetings regarding commonalities of their professional associations and not their employers. In the second paper, **Mary Somerville**, in a white paper commissioned by **SAGE** and given at the recent **14th Fiesole Collection Development Retreat**, discusses a study of discoverability, collaborative essentials and future collaborations. The full program of the **14th Fiesole Retreat** is online at http://www.casalini.it/retreat/retreat_2012.html.



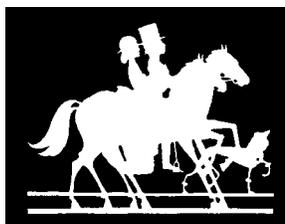
The third paper in this issue is by **John D. Riley** and is about the necessity for offsite storage given the explosion of information, digitization, and less demand for the printed book in light of the electronic counterpart. Finally we have a paper from **Bob Schatz** regarding institutional repositories. **Bob**, who spent most of his prior life in bookselling, talks about why institutional repositories are necessary, how to determine what to put in them, and how to evaluate the various software and platform options available.

It is interesting that in this series of papers we have traditional stakeholders in the library, vending, and publishing environment trying to understand and adapt to the changes all around us. 🌱

If Rumors Were Horses

Donna Jacobs’ column in this issue (**Booklover, Closer to Home**) resonated with me. I have started filling my home bookshelves with books that the library wants to discard or gifts that the library doesn’t want! Should we be discarding print for electronic? I think I will have to write an **Op Ed** about this unless you do!! In the meantime, see p.65.

Remember back in one of the very first **Charleston Conferences** in the **Francis Marion Hotel** (2007) the marvelous **Richard Werking** (then from the **Naval Academy** library, now retired) called our attention to a science fiction story from 1961 by **Hal Draper** (a librarian by the way). The story is called “**Ms Find in a Lbry**” and was published in the magazine **Fantasy and Science Fiction** (December 1961). You may remember we got permission to reprint the story in a little booklet in the **Conference** program that year. I



remembered the short story from my younger years and thought, with its look at information locked in boxes that people lost the combinations to, that it was oddly like now. AND — to top it all off, **John Riley’s** comments in this issue, p.22 remind me of that science fiction story. And, more coincidences, one of our professors at the **College of Charleston** has a discussion of this short story on his blog. See <http://kasmana.people.cofc.edu/MATHFICT/mfview.php?callnumber=mf242> In our haste to follow the trends, are we throwing the baby out with the bathwater?

Speaking of which, the **Charleston Conference** registration is slated to open Monday, June 4. We already have some early registrants and we already have people who have turned in proposals for papers, *continued on page 6*



Pictured here are **Michael Walmsley’s** children. On the left is **Aidan** (2 years old), and **Gabrielle** (5 years old).

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